

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A preamplifier circuit for amplifying an electrical signal from an electret condenser microphone transducer, comprising:

- a series capacitor connected to an output of ~~between~~ an electret condenser microphone ~~transducer output~~ and a DC input of an input amplifier stage of the preamplifier circuit ~~amplifier~~, wherein the input amplifier stage includes an input impedance circuit, including a pair of cross-coupled, small area PN junction diodes, which sets the input impedance of the input amplifier stage as substantially equal to or greater than 1 GigaOhm, wherein the capacitor reduces current leakages by blocking a DC path from the output of the electret condenser microphone ~~transducer~~ to the input amplifier stage ~~amplifier input~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the input amplifier stage is integrated as a monolithic chip and the capacitor is provided externally.

4. (Currently Amended) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the input amplifier stage and the capacitor is integrated as a monolithic chip.

5. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 4, wherein the monolithic chip is made in a modern IC technology comprising one of: CMOS, JFET, P- or N-type MOSFET, and MESFET.

6. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the capacitor is a low leakage, floating plates type made as a polysilicon-to-polysilicon capacitor compatible with modern IC technology.

7. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the capacitor is a low leakage, floating plates type made as a polysilicon-to-metal capacitor compatible with modern IC technology.

8. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the capacitor is a low leakage, floating plates type made as a metal-to-polysilicon capacitor compatible with modern IC technology.

9. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the capacitor is a low leakage, floating plates type made as a metal-to-metal capacitor compatible with modern IC technology.

10. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the capacitor is a low leakage, floating plates type made any combination of polysilicon or metal as one plate and any combination of resistive or conductive layer as second plate, all compatible with modern IC technology.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the input impedance of the input amplifier stage is set as substantially equal to or greater than 100 GigaOhms.

14. (Currently Amended) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the impedance circuit, further includes a resistor, which sets the input impedance of the input amplifier stage.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the preamplifier circuit amplifies an electric signal from an electret condenser microphone (ECM).

17. (Original) The preamplifier circuit according to claim 1, wherein the preamplifier circuit amplifies an electric signal from a silicon-based condenser microphone.

18 - 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) Miniature microphone comprising a preamplifier circuit according to claim 1.